MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer is in the negative. All deserving cases are admitted.

Equipments in the General Hospital.

26. MR. ITTOOP ITTEECHAN (*Kunnatnad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware —

(i) that up-to-date equipment for treatment is limited in the General Hospital;

(ii) that many patients in the General Hospital are passing their days without any cot, bedding or blanket; and

(iii) that up-to-date and improved surgical instruments and other equipments which are quite necessary in an institution like the General Hospital are limited there;

(*b*) whether any reports have been received by them or by the Administrative Board, Medical Services, from the Surgeon in charge of the General Hospital regarding these drawbacks; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken by them or by the Board in the matter?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) (i) The answer is in the negative. But additional up-to-date equipment for treatment is being provided every year as funds permit.

(ii) The average daily number of in-patients in the Hospital is much higher than the number of beds available. Hence some patients have to be accommodated on the floor which some even prefer. Blankets are supplied only to those in-patients whose condition requires them.

(iii) The member is referred to the answer to part (*a*) (i).

(*b*) Yes. The Board has received reports from the Surgeon in charge of the General Hospital regarding the want of extra cots, bedding and clothing.

(*c*) These defects will be remedied soon, as the two blocks newly built are being fitted up and will shortly be ready for occupation for in-patients.

X-ray Apparatus in the General Hospital.

27. MR. ITTOOP ITTEECHAN (*Kunnatnad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when the X-ray apparatus was fitted up in the General Hospital;

(*b*) whether the X-ray apparatus is being worked at present (31-1-'04);

(*c*) the number of times the X-ray apparatus has been out of order since its installation in the General Hospital;

(*d*) whether it is not due to the fact that the X-ray apparatus fitted up in the General Hospital is of a very cheap kind and of inferior quality that it frequently goes out of order;

(*e*) the cost price of the present X-ray apparatus in the General Hospital; and

(*f*) the total amount hitherto spent for improving and repairing the same?

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